



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

OCTOBER HEALTHY HOMES MONTH PROCLAMATION

The Department of Housing and Urban Development was created in 1965 to help meet our national goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. Today, we are well on our way to that goal. Under President George W. Bush, we have a new commitment to affordable and healthy housing, and a commitment to protect the health and safety of America's children.

With our many partners, HUD helps to champion healthy homes and protect young children from hazards in the home. We help provide the resources, fund the programs, enable the research, give the technical assistance, enforce the law and educate—all to make our housing safe and affordable.

- HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative identifies and corrects housing-associated health and injury problems, including lead-based paint hazards, asthma, excess moisture, pesticides, and radon in order to address multiple childhood diseases and injuries related to housing;
- HUD's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control program helps state and local governments develop and implement cost-effective methods to inspect and eliminate lead-based paint hazards in private owner-occupied and rental housing for low- and moderate-income families;
- HUD provides technical assistance to housing authorities, nonprofit housing providers, local and state agencies, other federal agencies, housing developers, inspectors, real estate professionals, contractors and financiers, and public health authorities; and
- HUD conducts educational programs, demonstrations, studies, and develops standards, all designed to protect children and their families from health and safety hazards in the home.

Therefore, to help meet our goal of eliminating lead-based paint hazards and other housing-related threats to children's health and safety, I hereby proclaim October 2002, as Healthy Homes Month. All parents, communities, state and local agencies, child-advocacy groups, private landlords, public housing and public health agencies, and housing industry professionals are encouraged to celebrate Healthy Homes Month by focusing attention on safe and healthy housing, especially for America's legacy and hope for the future: our children.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mel Martinez", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mel Martinez
Secretary

October 1, 2002